

RURAL DISTRICT OF MARTLEYANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Public Health Department,

36, The Tything,

Worcester.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Martley Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report
for the year 1946 in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular
No. 13/47.

Section A.STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	52,838
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid-year 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,480
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,243
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£37,878
Sum represented by a penny rate..	...	...	...	...	...	...	£160

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total
<u>Live Births.</u>			
Legitimate	93	101	194
Illegitimate	9	6	15
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			18.20
Birth rate for England and Wales	19.10

	Males	Females	Total
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Still Births.

Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	2	2
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births			36.86

	Males	Females	Total
<u>Deaths.</u>	70	51	121

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			10.54
Death rate for England and Wales.			11.50

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 4.60

Death Rate of Infants under age of one year:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	14.35
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.46
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Infant Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births 43.00

There were three deaths of infants under one year of age - one male and 2 female.

Causes of Death.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

There were 121 deaths in the area during the year classified by the Registrar General as under:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	3	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-
Influenza	-	-
Measles	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Cancer (all forms)	8	6
Diabetes	1	-
Intracranial Vascular lesions	7	8
Heart Disease	27	15
Other diseases of Circ: system	1	-
Bronchitis	4	1
Pneumonia	2	1
Other Respiratory diseases	2	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Other digestive diseases	3	2
Nephritis	2	3
Puerperal and post-abortion: sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	1
Premature birth	-	1
Suicide	-	1
Road Traffic	-	1
Other violent causes	2	4
All other causes	7	4

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Staff.

W. J. Johnson, M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P.,
Medical Officer of Health (Part-time).

F. D. Inskip, C. S. I. B.,
Sanitary Inspector (Retired 31.12.46).

A. L. Pratt, C. S. I. B., M. S. I. A.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

L. G. Jones,
Housing Survey Assistant.

Miss B. E. Stone,
Public Health Clerk and Shorthand Typist.

11. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The County Council Laboratory carry out chemical and bacteriological examinations of any samples submitted from the district.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.
For Infectious Disease.

The ambulance attached to the Worcester City Isolation Hospital is used in the removal of cases of infectious disease. This service has always proved prompt and efficient.

For non-infectious and Accident cases.

The Martley District Ambulance Scheme operates throughout the District for the conveyance of illness, accident and maternity cases. The scheme is a voluntary one.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

(d) Treatment centres and Clinics.

Both the above services are administered by the Worcestershire County Council.

(e) Hospitals.

No public or voluntary hospitals are situated in the Martley Rural District area. An arrangements between the Council and the City of Worcester is in operation for the removal and treatment of cases of infectious disease.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (1) Water.

No extensions to public piped supplies were made during the year, but in the Parish of Leigh a private piped supply was installed for the use of several farms and cottages on one estate, the source of this supply was a spring and the analysis showed that the water was of excellent quality both chemically and bacteriologically.

No acute shortage of water was reported during the year and generally speaking, the position in the Council's area may be considered to have been as satisfactory as possible, considering that the main sources of supply are from shallow wells.

An analysis of the piped supply at Clifton-on-Teme showed that the water was of good quality and free from bacterial pollution.

37 samples of water from private wells and springs were taken for analysis, 21 of these being reported as unsatisfactory for consumption and 16 were passed as fit for drinking; where possible attempts were made to improve the condition of those shown to be unsatisfactory, but it is difficult to make improvements when the source of the water is from shallow wells.

Only two parishes in the District are served by public water mains, and the following information is given as to the number of dwelling houses and the number of population supplied therefrom:-

North Hallow:-

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Population.</u>
(a) Direct to the Houses	56	205
(b) By stand-pipe	Nil	Nil

Clifton-on-Teme.

(a) Direct to the Houses.	61	215
(b) By stand-pipe	22	80

(11) Drainage and Sewerage.

No schemes of sewerage were carried out in the area during the year although negotiations with the various Ministries were still being made for the carrying out of the scheme for Rushwick. It is hoped that this scheme will be commenced in the very near future as conditions in that area are deteriorating rapidly and there is always the possibility of an outbreak of some water-borne disease due to the inadequate drainage facilities now existing.

The method of disposal of the sewage in the parish of Clifton-on-Teme is unsatisfactory and it is urged that a proper disposal plant may be installed at the earliest opportunity. The present system of treating crude sewage by land irrigation is rendered difficult by the nature of the soil and the lack of enthusiasm for this scheme by the tenant of the land.

Particulars of smaller extensions and improvements are contained in the attached report by the Sanitary Inspectors.

2. Rivers and Streams.

There has been no major pollution of rivers and streams during the year, and where any slight pollution has been discovered action has been taken to avoid its recurrence.

3. Public Cleansing.

During the early part of the year, and under the supervision of the Salvage Officer, attempts were made to reduce the accumulations of indestructible refuse in several parishes by organised house-to-house collections by the Salvage Lorry.

During the year the Council decided to improve on this method and the work of refuse collection was handed over to the Public Health department on the 1st October. A scheme was prepared and a refuse collection vehicle was placed on order, and it is hoped that this will be delivered in 1947. In the meantime every parish was visited and as much refuse collected as possible but there are large accumulations due to the lack of collection during the war years which will take some time to remove.

(11) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A report by the Sanitary Inspectors is attached.

(111). Shops.

There are no large shops in the area and very few who employ assistants. Inspections were made of shops where food was sold and the conditions found were satisfactory in every case.

(1V) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of infestation were notified during the year under review and no cases were found whilst housing inspections were being made.

4. Schools.

The sanitary conditions of the schools generally were satisfactory but sanitary accommodation in several cases is inadequate and attempts are being made to get the worst cases improved where possible.

There was no deficiency of water at the schools.

School Closures.

No school was closed by my order during the year.

Section D.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the year.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts, including Rural Housing Survey) | 1054 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. ... | 1406 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 | 977 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. ... | 1041 |
| (3). Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation... .. | 953 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices.

- | | |
|---|----|
| (a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... .. | 26 |
| (b) Number of houses where urgent defective conditions remedied by informal action | 54 |

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms
in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms
in respect of which Closing Order were determined,
the tenement or room being made fit Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part 1V. Overcrowding.

The amount of overcrowding found during the carrying out of the Rural Housing Survey was considerably below that expected and only 36 cases, or 3.4% of the houses inspected, were recorded.

Attempts were made to alleviate the more serious cases but, as no alternative accommodation was available, the matter was not pressed unduly as it would have meant the separation of family units.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) Milk Supplies. The supervision and sampling of accredited and T. T. milk is carried out by the County Council, but visits were made by the Officers of the Council, together with the County Sanitary Officer, regarding alterations and improvements in the structural conditions of cowsheds and dairies where producers were applying for Licences for those grades of milk.

As reported previously, it is impossible, owing to the size of the staff and to the multiplicity of duties which have to be carried out at the present time, for regular inspections to be made of all farms and dairies producing undesignated milk. Many visits were paid to those producers whose methods were known to be doubtful and improvements were obtained in many cases, as well as to the premises of persons who applied to be registered as cow keepers etc.

- (b) Meat and Other Foods. No regular slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out in the area but inspections of pigs killed under licence by house-holders were made where possible.

Complaints from shop-keepers regarding the condition of tinned and other goods received by them were investigated and where the food was found to be unfit for consumption, destruction was ordered.

- (c). Adulteration etc.

Administered by the County Council.

Section F.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other diseases.

A table showing the incidence of Infectious and Notifiable Diseases analysed into age groups is given at the end of this report.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 7 cases of scarlet fever as against 10 in 1945.

Five cases were admitted to Hospital.

Diphtheria.

There were 4 cases of diphtheria against 16 in 1945. All were admitted to hospital.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The work of immunisation has been continued throughout the year each Council School in the area being visited for this purpose and 147 children immunised.

Scabies.

The Clinic run by this Authority had to be closed in March as the Public Assistance Institution where it was held was closed down and the necessary supply of hot and cold water was not available. Since the Clinic opened in August, 1943, 221 cases of scabies were treated and only 9 cases had to be sent for institutional treatment; the Clinic has served a useful purpose in combating scabies in the area and I am grateful to the Additional Sanitary Inspector and to the Attendant for their help and assistance in making the Clinic a success.

During the year only 13 cases of scabies were notified and these were treated at home, several under the direction of the District Nurses.

Tuberculosis.

A table showing the new cases and mortality during the year is given below and the number of cases on the Register at the end of 1946 was 89, these being divided as follows:-

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
31	26	15	17

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. Johnson,

Medical Officer of Health.

January, 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT 1946.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Diseases.	Under one year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total cases noti- fied	Cases admit- ted to Hosp.	Total Deaths
1. Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	5	-
3. Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	4	4	-
4. Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	5	-	-
6. Pneumonia.	2	1	1	4	1	2	-	2	1	3	3	3	23	-	3
7. Erysipelas.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	5	-	-
8. Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Measles.	2	1	6	3	3	29	4	-	2	-	-	-	50	-	-
10. Whooping Cough.	-	2	2	2	3	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	15	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1946.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	3	1	-	1	2	-	-
25	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-
35	-	1	1	3	-	1	1	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	5	3	4	3	3	1	-

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

Date				Amount	
Month	Day	Year			
Jan	1	1900			
Jan	2	1900			
Jan	3	1900			
Jan	4	1900			
Jan	5	1900			
Jan	6	1900			
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

We have pleasure in submitting our Annual Report on the sanitary administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

It is regretted that a more detailed report can not be prepared but this is due to the fact that it is not possible to keep records in detail owing to the amount of outside work which has to be carried out, and to the lack of sufficient clerical assistance.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Very few cases of infectious disease were notified to us during the year, only 7 cases of Scarlet Fever, 5 cases of Diphtheria, and one of Erysipelas being visited. In all cases terminal disinfection was carried out and, in addition, disinfection was carried out to several premises where deaths from tuberculosis occurred.

HOUSING.

The Rural Housing Survey was started on the 16th April, 1945 and a considerable amount of time has been spent on this work during the current year, especially by the Additional Sanitary Inspector, who was instructed to organise and carry out this survey. One unqualified assistant was employed on this work to undertake the detailed inspections, the houses being visited by a qualified inspector afterwards in order to classify them. This survey has caused a large increase in the amount of clerical work to be carried out, but it is hoped that the records thus produced will form the basis of a housing programme for the Council as well as providing efficient records for the use of the Department.

The number of houses inspected during the housing survey are as follows:-

Up to 31st December 1945	789
Up to 31st December 1946	1,052
	<hr/>
	1,841.
	<hr/>

85% of the houses to be inspected have now been visited and it is hoped that the survey will be completed by March 1947, as requested by the Joint County Rural Housing Committee.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining labour and materials, mainly due to the large amount of work required to agricultural buildings, it was not possible to take the necessary action to remedy all the defects found during the survey and only works of an urgent nature, such as those to roofs, sanitary accommodation, drainage and water, were made the subject of informal notices. In many cases the owners of the properties concerned were willing to carry out these works but many are still outstanding although builders have been instructed to carry them out.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

Regular inspections of this type of structure were made throughout the holiday months and the camping sites generally were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. Two cases of moveable dwellings situated on unsatisfactory sites were dealt with and the structures removed.

DRAINAGE.

Rushwick.

The condition of the house drainage systems at Rushwick is still most unsatisfactory and in many cases, is getting worse. The Council made every effort to start constructing the sewerage scheme for this area but at the moment the works have not been started. It is hoped that it will be possible to carry out this work during 1947 as it is very essential from a Public Health point-of-view and is causing much anxiety to your Officers.

During the year it was only possible to assist the house-holders by emptying cesspools on two occasions as difficulty was experienced in borrowing a machine for the purpose from Worcester City, but it is hoped that a similar machine from the Borough of Kidderminster can be hired at more regular intervals.

Broadheath.

The general conditions in this area are such that it will be necessary to instal a sewerage scheme at the earliest opportunity, one area in particular being badly affected and a nuisance being caused by the method of drainage disposal.

North Hallow.

The plant at the sewage disposal works was overhauled during the year but, as it is now working to capacity, the question of its enlargement will have to be considered. It may be that this enlargement can be made at the same time that a sewerage scheme is installed at Broadheath.

In one area of this Parish trouble has occurred with flooding, due to the inadequate disposal of a joint highway and house drainage system, and it will probably be necessary to relay this drain in the very near future.

Abberley.

A length of open sewer ditch was piped in at the request of the Parish Council and the disposal of sewage in this part of the Parish was greatly improved.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

The following alterations and additions to house drainage systems in the area were carried out during the year:-

New drainage systems provided - 7

Alterations made to existing systems. - 10

Cesspools cleansed - 22

WATER SUPPLIES.

Clifton-on-Teme.

The spring forming the source of the public water supply to this Parish maintained sufficient volume during the year to give an adequate supply to the Parish. The maximum flow of the spring was recorded in December of this year when it rose to 3,600 gallons per hour, and the minimum flow occurred at the end of June when only 1,600 gallons per hour was recorded.

The quantity of water pumped during the year was 2,300,250 gallons as compared with 2,138,650 gallons in 1945.

During the year a new pump was installed for this supply, and the old pump retained as a standby unit.

North Hallow.

The piped supply in this Parish is controlled by the City of Worcester and this Authority will not allow any further connections to be made to the mains owing to an alleged shortage of water. Many houses adjoining the mains should be connected and it is hoped that some solution to this problem may be forthcoming in the future.

There are several areas within the Council's boundary which are in need of an adequate water supply; these "chronic" cases suffer badly during the late summer months through lack of drinking water and it is hoped that the Council will be able to alleviate these conditions as soon as possible.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLIES.

During the year the following Licences for designated milk were issued by the County Council to producers in this District:-

Tuberculin Tested.

Combined Producers and Bottling Licences	1
Producers Licences only	7

Accredited.

Combined Producers and Bottling Licences	2
Producers Licences only	10

Generally speaking, the standard of cleanliness in the buildings and the methods of production were good and only a very few unsatisfactory samples of designated milk were reported by the County Council.

Assistance and advice in the re-modelling of cowsheds was given on several occasions but it is impossible with the present staff to carry out as many inspections of dairies and cowsheds as is necessary.

HOP-PICKING.

The usual inspections of all barracks housing hop-pickers was made prior to, and during, their occupation, and the conditions found were a slight improvement on previous years. Several barracks are now considered to be out of date and will require renewing when this becomes possible. We are pleased to report that on three farms new barracks were erected, in two cases these being constructed to our design.

Many minor alterations were carried out to existing accommodation, these mainly consisting of new sanitary accommodation, the installation of concrete floors, and improvement of water supplies.

Two visits to the District were made by a Representative of the Ministry of Health and, generally speaking, the report on the conditions found during these inspections was satisfactory.

RODENT DESTRUCTION.

The Assistant Rodent Officer continued carrying out the duties delegated to this Council by the County Council under the Rats and Mice Destructions Order, 1919 and in accordance with the Ministry of Food Infestation Order, 1943. The majority of the treatments made by this officer were private dwellings, at the request of the occupiers, but treatments to rivers and streams, sewers, and refuse disposal dumps were also carried out.

During the year the Private Dwellings - special scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Food whereby, subject to certain conditions, private dwellings were treated free of charge, the cost of the work being shared between the Ministry of Food and the Council at the rate of 60% and 40% respectively. The Council adopted this scheme and treatments under it were started on the 1st May, 1946, and continued in a systematic manner throughout the remainder of the year.

The number of treatments carried out to the various types of premises were as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises.</u>	<u>Treatments.</u>
1. Private Dwellings	
(a) Occupiers Liability	44
(b) Under Special Scheme	98
2. Business Premises	14
3. Sewers	5
4. Refuse Tips	2
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Total	163
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We are, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

F. D. INSKIP.

A. L. PRATT.

Public Health Department,
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Worcester.

January, 1948.